

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 02239 120948Z
ACTION SS-25

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FOR HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: AODE, TW
SUBJECT: MODE - POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS AT
EMBASSY TAIPEI

REF: A. STATE 080745, B. STATE 080366

1. AS YOU REQUESTED, I HAVE TAKEN A HARD, PERSONAL LOOK
AT DEA, CUSTOMS AND AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE OPERATIONS IN
TAIWAN. MY ASSESSMENT OF EACH IN TERMS OF ITS IMPORTANCE
TO U.S. OBJECTIVES, AND KEEPING IN MIND NORMALIZATION
PROCESS, IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. DEA - THIS OFFICE HAS ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED
GOOD RELATIONS WITH GROC AGENCIES INVOLVED IN SUPPRES-
SION OF DRUG TRAFFIC. HOWEVER, OWING TO THE EFFECTIVE-
NESS OF THOSE AGENCIES AND SEVERE LEGAL PENALTIES FOR
USING OR TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS, THE DRUG PROBLEM IS NOT
NEARLY AS ACUTE IN TAIWAN AS IT IS IN MANY OTHER COUN-
TRIES IN ASIA. GROC IS PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH
PROBLEM WITHOUT DIRECT DEA INVOLVEMENT IN OPERATIONAL

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MATTERS. I WOULD RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT ATTACHE
POSITION BE ABOLISHED. DEA INTEREST IN MAINTAINING
LIAISON WITH GROC AGENCIES FOR INFORMATION AND HELP THEY
CAN PROVIDE ON NON-TAIWAN CASES COULD BE SERVED BY CON-
TINUATION OF PERIODIC VISITS OF DEA PERSONNEL FROM HONG
KONG.

B. CUSTOMS - UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE OFFICE BE RETAINED. SINCE ATTACHE'S ARRIVAL IN 1974 HE HAS BEEN FULLY OCCUPIED WITH INVESTIGATION OF CASES INVOLVING DUMPING, ASSESSMENT OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GSP. WORKLOAD HAS BEEN INCREASING AND WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO DO SO GIVEN GROWING US-ROC TRADE. IN VIEW OUR NORMALIZATION POLICY, HOWEVER, RECOMMEND WE TRANSFER CUSTOMS AGENT SLOT TO HONG KONG. AGENT COULD VISIT TAIPEI ON TDY AS NECESSARY. ESSENTIAL DAY-TO-DAY CUSTOMS WORK COULD BE ABSORBED BY THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION ASSISTED BY COMPETENT LOCAL EMPLOYEE FUNDED BY CUSTOMS. SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT BE AS SATISFACTORY TO CUSTOMS AS KEEPING AGENT SLOT HERE, BUT BELIEVE IT WOULD PROVIDE FOR PERFORMANCE OF ESSENTIAL TASKS.

C. AGRICULTURE - THE ROC IS NOW AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE A MAJOR PURCHASER OF US AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES. SUCH PURCHASES ARE NORMALLY MADE THROUGH COMMERCIAL CHANNELS AND SELDOM OCCUR AS THE RESULT OF MARKET PROMOTION EFFORTS OF THE ATTACHE. BILATERAL TRADE ISSUES IN AGRICULTURE, E.G., COTTON CONTRACTS, MUSHROOMS, APPLES AND RAISINS ARE NOW AND CAN CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED BY THE ECON/COMM SECTION. THE ATTACHE'S RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THE RESIDENT COOPERATORS (WHEAT ASSO-
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CIATES, SOYBEAN COUNCIL, ETC.) COULD ALSO BE VESTED IN THE ECON/COMM SECTION. IN MY OPINION, THEREFORE, THE OFFICE COULD BE CLOSED WITHOUT SERIOUS DAMAGE TO US INTERESTS. IF THIS WERE DONE, I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE TWO LOCAL EMPLOYEES (ONE PROFESSIONAL, ONE SECRETARY) BE PLACED IN THE ECON/COMM SECTION. THE FORMER WOULD CONTINUE TO DO THE REPORTS REQUIRED BY USDA ON ROC AGRICULTURE AND RELATIONS WITH THE COOPERATORS.
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